



PARKS & RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

April 7, 2009

6:00 p.m. Memorial Senior Center
1800 Bryon, El Paso, TX

MINUTES

Members Present: 11

Henry Stokes, Chair, David Turner, Vice Chair, Michael Armstead, Matthew Carroll, Richard Falvo, Jeannine Kennedy, William Medrano, Carl Pataky, Frederick Shuford, Bill Sparks, Rodolfo Troncoso

Members Absent: 6

Ralph Cloud, Francoise Feliberti, Trinidad Munoz, Ruben Robles, James Tolbert, Brian Wickstrom

Member Vacancies: 2

Staff Present: Nanette Smejkal, Director, Joel McKnight, Assistant Director, Judy Weiss, Assistant Director, Maggie Binkley, Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item # 1. Meeting Called to Order

Henry Stokes, Chair, called meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Motion made by David Turner to approve Agenda as written. Second by Matthew Carroll.
Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item # 2. Approval of Minutes: March 3, 2009

Henry Stokes, Chair, noted that the March 3, 2009 minutes were well organized and accurate.

Motion by Carl Pataky to approve the March 3, 2009 minutes as written. Second by Michael Armstead. Motion carried (unanimous).

Agenda Item # 3. Parks and Recreation Staff Announcement and Recognitions

Nanette Smejkal, Parks and Recreation Director, highlighted the calendar and newsletter included in the agenda packet. Other announcements:

April 13, 2009 Monday 4:30 p.m. Grandview Park Dedication - CDBG Project
April 26, 2009 Sunday 8:30 a.m. Yucca Park – Reading Garden Dedication

The dedication of the Senior Games “Hall of Fame” was held at Memorial Senior Center on April 6, 2009.

Agenda Item # 4. Petitions and Communication from the Public

Matthew Carroll asked staff to review if the Rose Garden could open for an additional two weeks in the fall. Nanette Smejkal assigned Joel McKnight to review.

Michael Armstead commented that the Rose Garden is a valuable asset to the community and the classes conducted by master gardeners had significant participation.

Richard Falvo, new Parks and Recreation Advisory Board member, was introduced by Michael Armstead. Henry Stokes, Chair, welcomed Mr. Falvo to the Board. Mr. Falvo gave the board a brief biography and accomplishments.

Agenda Item #5. Subcommittees:

- a. Discussion and Action: Naming Committee recommendation that the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board forward a request to City Council to approve naming the new central recreation center at 701 Montana as Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center (Michael Armstead)

Michael Armstead reported the nomination met all the criteria and the committee supported the recommendation that the new recreation center be named the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center.

Public Comment: Ms. Emma Salazar, President of the Houston Park Association, on behalf of the members of the Friends and Neighbors United Committee (FANUC) endorsed the Naming Committee's recommendation. Ms. Salazar gave a summation on the life of Pat O'Rourke and distributed a Letter of Recommendation to the Board (Handout).

William Medrano stated that Mr. O'Rourke also gained notoriety while protesting by burning the United States flag and that the military community might take offense at the dedication. Matthew Carroll mentioned that he was not aware of the incident and felt this would not be a significant factor in the recommendation.

Motion made by Matthew Carroll to send to City Council for their approval for 701 Montana to be named the Pat O'Rourke Recreation Center. Second by Michael Armstead. Motion passed: 9 ayes, 1 abstain, Chair no vote.

- b. Discussion and Action: Open Space Committee update from recent meetings (as needed)

Carl Pataky reported on a meeting held March 23, 2009. Participated in a TXDot visit at Tom Mays Park to evaluate culverts and passageways under Transmountain. Next meeting to be held on April 27th.

No action needed.

- c. Discussion and Action: Grievance Committee update from recent meetings (as needed)

None, no action needed.

- d. Discussion and Action: Appointments to Subcommittees (as needed)

Henry Stokes, Chair, advised Richard Falvo a vacancy exists on the Grievance Committee and he will meet with him to assist with his decision. No action needed.

Agenda Item #6. Discussion and Action: Determination of Board Goals and Objectives (Henry Stokes)

Carl Pataky reported that the survey he conducted received little feedback. He received an email which stated:

“While other boards struggle to define goals and objectives, it occurs to me that creating such a definition for this board may not be necessary and may even be inappropriate. This particular board is a creation of a specific City Ordinance that defines our mission, objectives and duties and I don’t think we are at liberty to expand, revise or change the duties.”

Discussion ensued. Henry Stokes, Chair, reminded members that the board is a representation that meets the needs of the community that impacts El Paso as a whole. The city ordinance was outdated, and did not apply to the City Manager form of government. The Ad Hoc Committee has accomplished its purpose.

Nanette Smejkal addressed the board regarding the status of code changes. The recommendations were taken to the LRC. The LRC directed staff to draft the ordinance for nine members and a two year term of office. The Legal Department advised that the ordinance would have to state how members would be reduced from 19 to nine. The City Manager also directed staff to prepare an ordinance that would establish a separate open space advisory committee. Both draft ordinances will go to an LRC in May.

No further action was taken on this agenda item.

Judy Weiss requested that Item #7 follow Item #8. Motion was made by Michael Armstead to move the agenda as requested. Second by Bill Sparks. The motion passed (unanimous).

Agenda Item #8. Discussion and Information: Status of YISD Soccer Field Development across from Blackie Chesher Park (Joel McKnight)

Joel McKnight reported working with YISD in designing the site for two lit soccer fields south of Escobar. A design concept was distributed to members (Handout). Discussion and explanation of the drawing ensued. Groundbreaking is scheduled for May 7, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. The construction should take 180 days.

Agenda Item #7. Discussion and Action: Fees and Charges Comprehensive Review (Judy Weiss)

Judy Weiss opened with a PowerPoint presentation “Parks and Recreation Facility Use”, which was a review of the fees and charges. After the presentation – open discussion.

This item will be on the agenda again in May; members were asked to read the draft prior to May meeting. After the May board meeting fees will go to the LRC.

Judy Weiss addressed the issue of fund raising events for nonprofits which was brought by Richard Falvo and the availability of sports equipment questioned by Matthew Carroll. Bill Sparks also requested an explanation of participant levels and revenues.

9. Adjournment Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Administrative Assistant, Margaret T. Binkley